

Message Text

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R 191720Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0860

INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 09900

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: UG, GW, CGEN

SUBJECT: UGANDAN TRIAL OF BRITISH CITIZEN DENIS HILLS

SUMMARY: ON JUNE 18 THE FRG FONOFF PASSED US A REPORT FROM ITS EMBASSY IN KAMPALA CONCERNING THE UGANDAN TRIAL OF BRITISH CITIZEN, DENIS HILLS, WHICH RECOUNTS THE DIFFICULTIES ENCOUNTERED WHEN THE FRG ATTEMPTED TO ASSIST HILLS' FORMER WIFE (A GERMAN CITIZEN) IN VISITING HILLS. END SUMMARY.

1. FRG EMBASSY KAMPALA REPORTS THAT ON JUNE 9 THE FRG DCM (HILLGENBERG) ACCOMPANIED THE FORMER MRS. HILLS IN AN FRG EMBASSY VEHICLE TO THE MILITARY PRISON IN WHICH MR. HILLS IS BEING HELD; THE ACTING BRITISH HIGH COMMISSIONER (HENNESSY) AND MR. HILLS' ATTORNEY FROM NAIROBI (WILKINSON) TRAVELED WITH THEM IN ANOTHER VEHICLE.

2. WHEN THE TWO VEHICLES ENTERED THE MILITARY BASE AND STOPPED IN FRONT OF THE COURT BUILDING, THEY WERE CONFRONTED BY A "VERY EXCITED COMMANDING OFFICER OF UNIT, COLONEL SULE," WHO THREATENED EVERYONE WITH ARREST FOR HAVING ENTERED THE BASE WITHOUT PROPER
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AUTHORIZATION. "ONLY ENERGETIC REFERENCE TO DIPLOMATIC

PRIVILEGES ON THE PART OF DCM HILLGENBERG' THWARTED THEIR ARREST. COLONEL SULE CALLED PRESIDENT AMIN, AND "AFTER SOME TIME" RETURNED TO SAY THAT THEY COULD LEAVE.

3. WILKINSON HAD A BRIEF OPPORTUNITY TO SPEAK WITH HILLS, WHO "MADE A HEALTHY AND COMPOSED IMPRESSION." BRITISH REQUESTS TO HAVE A DIPLOMATIC OBSERVER PRESENT DURING THE TRIAL WERE REFUSED.

4. THAT AFTERNOON PRESIDENT AMIN CALLED FRG AMBASSADOR ELLERKMANN TO ASK HIM IF HE WAS AWARE "THAT A FIRST SECRETARY OF MY EMBASSY HAD ATTEMPTED TO BRING A BRITISH TRIAL OBSERVER INTO THE MILITARY BASE." AMIN STATED THAT HE ORDERED THE RELEASE OF THE PERSONS CONCERNED IN VIEW OF THE GOOD RELATIONS BETWEEN UGANDA AND THE FRG. ELLERKMANN THEN EXPLAINED THAT THE FRG DCM HAD DRIVEN TO THE MILITARY BASE WITH MRS. HILLS TO VISIT HER FORMER HUSBAND.

5. THE FRG REPORT CONCLUDES THAT "AT LEAST THE INCIDENT HAS MADE CLEAR THAT WE GERMANS ARE INTERESTED IN THE OUTCOME OF THE TRIAL IN THE SAME WAY AS THE BRITISH." CASH

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